

## A B S T R A C T

A TELECOMMUNICATIONS METHOD AND SYSTEM USING NON-  
GEOSYNCHRONOUS SATELLITES AND IN WHICH CALLS CAN BE  
5 HANDED OVER FROM ONE SATELLITE TO ANOTHER

The invention relates to a telecommunications  
method using non-geostationary Earth satellites ( $S_1$ ,  $S_2$ ,  
 $S_3$  and  $S_4$ ) and in which the Earth is divided into areas  
10 ( $20_i$ ) inside which calls involving terminals in said area  
are relayed by a management station (22) and each  
terminal ( $24_1$ ,  $24_2$ , etc.) and the management station  
communicate via a satellite, another satellite taking  
over a call when the former satellite is no longer used.  
15 Handover of calls from one satellite to another is  
commanded by making use of predetermined times during  
which at least two satellites are simultaneously visible  
from the area or from a portion of the area. Call  
handovers are commanded collectively for a plurality of  
20 terminals, for example.

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Translation of the title and the abstract as they were when originally filed by the  
35 Applicant. No account has been taken of any changes that may have been made  
subsequently by the PCT Authorities acting ex officio, e.g. under PCT Rules 37.2,  
38.2, and/or 48.3.